

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04821 111214Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----111215Z 012712 /42

O 111035Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1552

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4821

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR NEA/PAB ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, US, MASS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES

REFERENCE: A. STATE 102155; B. ODRP ISLAMABAD 110307Z MAY 77

1. ODRP REFTEL, SENT INFO STATE, NOTES THAT PAK NAVY HAS REQUESTED A LETTER OF OFFER FOR PURCHASE OF A SECOND-HAND BOILER FROM THE US NAVY. AS BACKGROUND, WE UNDERSTAND USN PUBLICIZED WORLD-WIDE AVAILABILITY OF BOILER, AT PRICE OF \$80,000, BUT HAD NO TAKERS. PN IS NOW OFFERING \$40,000.

2. THIS IS FIRST CASE OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE OF GOP REQUEST FOR LOA FOR MILITARY PURCHASE SINCE PM'S SPEECH ALLEGING AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A RELATIVELY SMALL SALE, AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PAK NAVY ARE IMPORTANT TO US, WE STILL BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT NOW MOVE AHEAD AND APPROVE THIS SALE.

3. IF WE DO NOT NOW ISSUE THE LOA, THIS WOULD BE
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CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY AS OUTLINED IN STATE REFTEL. WE WOULD NOT REJECT THE PAK REQUEST, RATHER WE WOULD FOR THE MOMENT NOT RESPOND TO IT. IF THE PN ASKS ABOUT THE LOA, WE WOULD REPLY THAT CONSIDERING THE PRESENT STATE OF US/PAK RELATIONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS THE RIGHT TIME TO MOVE AHEAD ON SUCH SALES, BUT WE WILL KEEP THE MATTER UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW. THIS STRUCK US AS A

BORDERLINE CASE WITH GOOD REASONS FOR MOVING AHEAD. HOWEVER,
ON BALANCE, WE ARE MOST CONCERNED THAT IF WE NOW GIVE THE
LOA FOR THE BOILER, THIS MIGHT WELL BE SEEN AS A SIGNAL
BY THE TOP LEVELS OF THE GOP THAT WE ARE STILL PREPARED
TO MOVE AHEAD WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL - A SIGNAL WE AGREE
WE DO NOT WANT TO SEND.

4. WE HAVE INFORMED ODRP OF OUR RECOMMENDATION ON THIS
ISSUE, AND THEY WILL NOT QUERY DOD FROM THIS END ON
STATUS OF THE REQUEST UNLESS ASKED TO DO SO BY THE PAK NAVY.
CONSTABLE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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